## Borough Gets Aid to Help Keep Down Tax Rate

Wednesday, August 01, 2007 Kristi Funderburk Staff Writer Vineland Daily Journal

BUENA -- The borough was awarded \$140,000 in Extraordinary Aid on Tuesday after submitting an application to the Division of Local Government Services.

Mayor Joseph Baruffi said the borough applied for \$400,000, but was grateful to receive as much as they did in the competitive grant.

"I would've liked to see more, but this does mean this will cut us down five cents," he said.

The tax rate before the aid fell between 15 cents and 16 cents. The aid award enables the borough to have a tax rate of a little more than 10 cents, Baruffi said.

"I'm very happy," he said. "It gives us the little tax relief that we can use while we're in the redevelopment era."

Baruffi's next step would be to set up a public hearing to adopt a budget, which the mayor quessed could be as soon as Friday afternoon.

Between the 10-cent tax rate, borough revaluations, and a Buena Regional budget miscalculation, Baruffi isn't sure how the tax bill will be affected. What is a positive guarantee, however, is that the aid will lower the local purpose portion of the tax bill.

The awards go to municipalities that cannot provide necessary community services because of extreme circumstances without an increase in the property tax rate. The aid for the current calendar year comes from the state Department of Community Affairs.

Extraordinary Aid awards were also granted to two Cumberland County townships. Fairfield will receive \$100,000 and Maurice River Township earned \$200,000.